



Proposed Smith and Minor Islands Aquatic Reserve Planning Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Prepared By: Michael Grilliot

Feb. 02, 2010

Conference Room, Whidbey Island Conservation District, Coupeville, WA

PARTICIPANTS: **Betty Bookheim** (Department of Natural Resources), **Dave Peeler** (People For Puget Sound), **Dick Toft** (Island County Marine Resources Committee), **Jennifer Meyer** (NAS Whidbey Island), **Ken Urstad** (Puget Sound Anglers), **Kevin Ryan** (USFWS), **Kyle Murphy** (Facilitator - Department of Natural Resources), **Matt Kukuk** (Island County Public Health), **Michael Grilliot** (Department of Natural Resources), **Sara Woehrman** (WSU Island County Beach Watchers), **Steve Ellis** (Whidbey Audubon Society)

INTRODUCTIONS:

Introductions of Planning Advisory Committee members began at 12:30pm

PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The meeting Minutes from the Dec 15th Meeting were reviewed and commented on:
The previous meeting minutes were deemed appropriate and accepted.

REVIEW DRAFT PLAN ELEMENTS:

The committee discussed various elements of the draft management plan that was provided to each member before the meeting:

Concern was raised by some committee members over the scope of the plan itself, specifically related to the size of the reserve being too large and that it may be used by other agencies to exert more regulatory authority over the region. It was also discussed that great care must be taken regarding the language of the plan itself. Specifically to ensure understanding that while each committee member is an advisor to DNR's management plan development effort, they may not entirely endorse or agree with the end result. Also, that the final plan is a DNR product that intended to include comments and input from committee members as much as possible but does not necessarily reflect the exact wishes of each committee member or the organization they represent.

Various additions to the "Relationship to Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Management" section were suggested. Including, the Island County Marine Resources Committee, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Department of Health monitoring programs. Other edits were submitted by committee members in writing.

Concern was raised over how much oceanographic information was and should be included in the document since oceanographic processes was a major point made by the Technical Advisory Committee for site designation.

Considerable discussion focused around the Appendices and presentation of scientific information and species listing. It was mentioned that descriptions of certain species life characteristics (seasonality, birthing and rearing areas, etc...) should be included along with species lists. Species lists (birds and fish particularly) were also augmented and continue to be developed. The Wildfish Conservancy and Whidbey Fly Fishing were suggested as potential sources for data as well as creel surveys from Port Townsend or Fort Casey.

NOAA shipwreck information was suggested for appendices as well as any Navy information on unexploded ordinance piles within the proposed reserve boundaries.

It was also suggested that data collected through citizen science or local knowledge be included where appropriate with annotations added to clarify the source of the information.

REVIEW FIDALGO BAY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

The Fidalgo Bay management plan goals and objectives were reviewed as a possible framework for the draft Smith and Minor management plan goals and objectives:

There were no objections to using the format for the Fidalgo Bay plan goals and objectives as a template.

DEVELOP DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

The draft goals and objectives for the Smith and Minor Islands Aquatic Reserve were discussed (draft list exists as separate document):

A suggestion was made to frame all of the research and monitoring efforts around maintaining current conditions and improving them where possible. However a base-line inventory of current conditions is needed to ensure that the efforts spearheaded by the management plan and other partnerships are successful. In addition to the research section, standards for any data collected need to be clearly identified as well as where and how the data will be cataloged and made available to interested parties.

Other sources of information to consult in development of the goals and objectives were suggested: Shore stewards, Service, Education and Adventure, and the Pacific Rim Institute, Swinomish Tribe.

OTHER BUSINESS:

No other business was discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no members of the public present and no public comment recorded.

CLOSING:

The meeting was concluded at 3:00pm